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Sen. Brown announces Adrian company as recipient of first Renewable Energy Renaissance Zone

LANSING – State Sen. Cameron S. Brown announced today that Adrian will be home to Michigan's first Renewable Energy Renaissance Zone.

"This is win-win news for Adrian and for all of Lenawee County," said Brown, R-Fawn River Township. "Not only will the community benefit from 20 high-quality new jobs and millions of dollars worth of investment, but it will also be positioned at the forefront of the renewable energies field that is so important to our state and nation's future."

Utilizing the Renewable Energy Renaissance Zone designation, Biofuel Industries Group (BIG) plans to construct and operate a biodiesel production facility to produce biodiesel and the byproduct glycerin. The renaissance zone designation will allow the company to operate free of almost all state and local taxes.

Brown was one of the sponsors of the renewable fuels package, which included the bill to create the new renaissance zones.

BIG will produce biodiesel fuel from soybeans or other oils and sell it to petroleum distributors. The fuel will then be mixed at different ratios with diesel fuel before being sold to consumers.

The facility, building and infrastructure will accommodate approximately 20 million gallons a year of biodiesel production, although the initial production equipment is set for production of 10 million gallons. The \$10 million project will create about 20 jobs.

BIG is also considering other alternative energy technologies and plans to grow the company to about 40 million gallons a year.

"I couldn't be more proud to see the first Renewable Energy Renaissance Zone designation awarded to Adrian," Brown said. "Our state's future energy needs rely upon renewable fuels, and now Adrian will be at the front line of those efforts."

While the project has been approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, a final decision is expected soon from the State Administrative Board.